KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Plant Disease in Kansas

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Special points of interest:

- *Pine wilt and K-281*
- *Disease in your planted wheat? Not this year.*
- *Is black walnut facing extinction in Kansas?*

Pine Wilt Update in Central Kansas

Pine wilt has taken a westward position of highway K-281 in Kansas. Late October and November surveys found numerous sites in Pratt County east of Pratt northward through Stafford County to Great Bend and Russell. North of I-70, the disease has moved into the cities of Beloit and Lucas. In Jewell County, pine wilt has moved to plantings at Lovewell Reservoir and Jewell. Mankato is believed to be still disease free.

In neighboring areas to the west of the above described, pine wilt has not been found in the 15 mile area directly west and in communities such as Hays, Dodge City, and Colby. These communities had previous reports and removal of trees to stop establishment of small pine wilt introductions. We anticipate that next year some movement will be to the west but how much is unknown. In some of the areas, communities and pines are spread out greater distances from each other. This may lead to a slower approach in westward expansion. Currently, our focus is to address a large overgrown Christmas tree plantation outside of Great Bend that has a very small infection level. If this plantation becomes heavily infected, it will provide a nuisance source of pine wilt to Great Bend, Pawnee Rock, and Larned. The dead trees will also be a potential fire hazard.

On November 15th, a pine wilt management meeting is planned with city officials in Beloit. In February, a Pratt meeting is planned to discuss options for the county and nearby communities.

You may go to Google Maps and type in "2009 Pine Wilt in Kansas" for a distribution map.

Fall Wheat Disease Update

The Kansas wheat crop appears to be a very healthy one as we look toward the winter months. Survey this fall found little disease in the planted crop with a few scattered reports of foliar disease and little virus. Some virus infections were found in the volunteer crop but a combination of cool wet weather in October and good management practices by growers have produced an unlikely scenario of a spring epidemic of wheat streak mosaic.

In the past, fall wheat survey historically has been a strong indicator for spring epidemics of wheat streak mosaic and related viruses. Leaf rust and barley yellow dwarf spring disease levels have sometimes been related to fall infection levels.

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INVASIVE SPECIES

Plant Protection and Weed Control Program

Plant Protection and Weed Control staff work to ensure the health of the state's native and cultivated plants by excluding or controlling destructive pests, diseases and weeds. Staff examine and analyze pest conditions in crop fields, rangelands, greenhouses and nurseries. Action taken to control potential infestations of new pests, whether they are insects, plants diseases or weeds, is beneficial to the economy and the environment.

Our Mission is to:

- Exclude or control harmful insects, plant diseases, and weeds;
- Ensure Kansas plants and plant products entering commerce are free from quarantine pests;
- Provide customers with inspection and certification services.

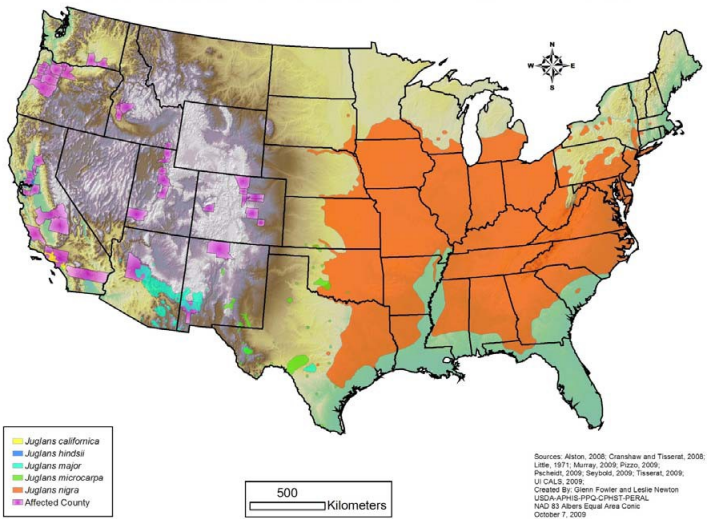
The Plant Disease Survey in Kansas has been conducted since 1976. The survey addresses disease situations in field crops, native ecosystems, and horticultural trade. The Kansas Department of Agriculture works cooperatively with Kansas State University and Extension programs, United States Department of Agriculture, and various commodity groups.

1000 Canker (TCD) of Walnuts: Threat from the West

Kansas is in the forefront of a battle to save the black walnut in Great Plains and eastern US because of our geographic location. The disease known as 1000 Cankers has been present for some time although not recognized as a disease until recently in many states to the west of Kansas (see map). A recent release of Pathway Assessment by USDA-APHIS cites the most important or greatest threat of movement of the disease and associated insect into non infected areas of North America including Kansas **as logs or raw wood from western areas of the US.** The report cites the introduction potential or approach rate to be low but consistent over time. History and science has shown man associated movement of raw wood linked to new disease reports. The natural spread by insect is thought to be very low.

This disease kills trees by a process of many fungal cankers attacking the bark cambium and over time, the multiple infections essentially starve the tree of food and the tree declines rapidly. Kansas may see introductions into the state from movement of logs, firewood, boards with bark, and shipping materials. The Kansas Department of Agriculture is assessing the potential of introductions in various industries including logging and timber, firewood, and hobby woodworking.

U.S. Native Walnut Distributions and TCD Affected Counties



At this time, the best recommendation is not to move or transport walnut raw wood into Kansas. More later….